

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
-----059215 160431Z /15
R 151713Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3905
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM MO
SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKES IN PRISONS

REF: STATE 298597

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ORGANS OF ISTIQLAL PARTY (WHICH IS PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT) AND USFP (SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH IS NOT) HAVE REPORTED IN RECENT DAYS THAT HUNGER STRIKES WERE BEING STAGED BY POLITICAL PRISONERS. L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) REPORTED DECEMBER 12 THAT PRISONERS AT KENITRA WERE IN THEIR 30TH DAY OF STRIKE, THE GOAL OF WHICH WAS TO OBTAIN RIGHT TO RECEIVE NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES, AND SEE THEIR LAWYERS. THE FAMILIES OF THE DETAINED HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF PRISONERS' HEALTH. USFP'S AL MUHARRIR REPORTED DECEMBER 13 THAT ONE OF THE PRISONERS, A GIRL, HAD DIED, AND STATED THAT THE STRIKERS' SITUATION WAS "VERY BAD". BOTH PAPERS CALLED ON AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS.

2. AL MUHARRIR DEC 15 PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY THE LAWYERS OF THE 139 LEFTISTS CONVICTED IN THE JANUARY 1977 CASABLANCA TRIALS. THE COMMUNIQUE PROTESTED THE DEATH OF SAIDA MENEHBI, 25. SHE AND THREE OTHER PERSONS OF THE
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ORIGINAL 139 HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL IN CASABLANCA 20 DAYS AGO. THE COMMUNIQUE CALLED THE HUNGAR STRIKE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY "UNLIMITED".

3. AFP REPORTED FROM PARIS DEC 11 THAT A MOROCCAN EXILE GROUP HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO UN SECYGEN WALDHEIM DEMANDING AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE MENEHBI DEATH. ON DEC 11,

AFP QUOTED AN "INFORMED SOURCE" IN CASABLANCA AS CONFIRMING THE DEATH, AND REPORTED THAT 40 PRISONERS HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO KENITRA PRISON INFIRMARY AS A RESULT OF HUNGER STRIKE.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: AS FAR AS WE CAN GATHER, THE STRIKERS ARE THE EXTREME LEFTISTS CONVICTED IN THE JANUARY 1977 CASABLANCA TRIALS. WE ARE UNABLE TO CORROBORATE REPORT IN REFTEL THAT 434 PRISONERS ARE INVOLVED IN STRIKE AT KENITRA FACILITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION IN THE GOM CONTROLLED MEDIA OF ANY DISTURBANCES.

5. AMBASSADOR PLANS EARLY CALL ON MINISTER OF JUSTICE MAATI BOUABID. THIS WILL PERMIT OUR DISCUSSING CONCERNS RAISED BY THESE REPORTS AND WILL MARK ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP IN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOM ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. WE WILL ALSO SEEK OTHER APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO RAISE THESE CONCERNS WITH GOM OFFICIALS.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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